

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 05015 041717Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

SCA-01 VO-03 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 /078 W

-----041721Z 069177 /41

O R 041601Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3861

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 5015

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB GE

SUBJ: CONTROL POINTS ON GDR/EAST BERLIN BOUNDARY

REFS: A) BERLIN 7336; B) BONN 00047; C) USBERLIN 0012;

D) USBERLIN 0004

1. FRG PERMREP (BRAUTIGAM) INFORMED US, BRITISH AND FRENCH LATE JANUARY 3 THAT, BASED ON PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS, EAST GERMANS HAVE REMOVED CONTROL POINTS FOR CHECKING VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AT EAST BERLIN/GDR BOUNDARY. MOVE APPARENTLY TOOK PLACE NEW YEAR'S WEEK-END. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THIS LATEST STEP

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERLIN 05015 041717Z

IS PART OF EAST GERMAN VISA REGULATION MOVE TO BOLSTER GDR CONTENTION THAT EAST BERLIN IS CAPITAL OF GDR. GENERAL CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSION WAS THAT REMOVAL OF CHECK POINTS COULD CAUSE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS FOR ALLIED TRAVELERS AS WELL AS FRG CITIZENS WHO MIGHT UNINTENTIONALLY LEAVE LIMITS OF EAST BERLIN AND FIND THEMSELVES IN GDR WITHOUT VALID VISAS.

2. AS IN THE CASE OF DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS IN BONN ABOUT GDR ACTIONS (REFTEL B), REMOVAL OF CONTROL POINTS IS CAUSING PERMREP TO LOOK MORE SERIOUSLY AND CAREFULLY AT IMPLICATIONS FOR FRG TRAVELLERS TO EAST BERLIN OF RECENT EAST GERMAN MOVES. WHILE PERMREP IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT ANY IMMEDIATE CHANGES IN EAST GERMAN PROCEDURES RE WEST GERMAN TRAVELERS TO EAST BERLIN, THEY ARE WONDERING WHETHER OTHER SHOE MIGHT NOT DROP AT SOME POINT. BY THEIR RECENT STEPS, IN BRAUTIGAM'S VIEW, THE EAST GERMANS ARE EXERCISING COMPETENCE IN A "SENSITIVE AREA" FOR FRG, I.E. "RIGHT" OF WEST GERMANS TO TRAVEL IN "GREATER BERLIN" WITHOUT ANY COMPLICATED PROCEDURES. BRAUTIGAM'S CONCERN IS THAT IN THE FUTURE THE GDR, PERHAPS BY CLAIMING THAT FRG TRAVELERS HAVE STRAYED INTENTIONALLY OR UNINTENTIONALLY INTO THE GDR FROM EAST BERLIN WITHOUT PROPER VISAS, MAY SEEK TO IMPOSE NEW PROCEDURES FOR WEST GERMAN WISHING TO TRAVEL TO EAST BERLIN. ACCORDING TO BRAUTIGAM, ABOUT 1,300,000 WEST GERMANS TRAVEL ANNUALLY TO EAST BERLIN. IT IS HIS VIEW THAT THIS FLOW OF WEST GERMANS IN EAST BERLIN IS A WORRY TO THE REGIME.

3. BRAUTIGAM'S CONCERN IS HEIGHTENED BY THE FACT THAT THE FRG HAS NEVER ACCEPTED THE DAY VISA PROCEDURES INSTITUTED IN 1968 BY GDR FOR WEST GERMAN TRAVELERS TO EAST BERLIN. IN FACT, FRG PROTESTED GDR INTRODUCTION OF SUCH PROCEDURES. BRAUTIGAM NOTED ALSO THAT TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR WEST GERMAN TO EAST BERLIN, UNLIKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERLIN 05015 041717Z

WEST BERLINERS, WERE NOT SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS OR AGREEMENTS DURING QA NEGOTIATIONS.

4. ON THE MATTER OF DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF TRAVELERS EXEMPT FROM NEW VISA REGULATIONS (REFTEL A), GREEK AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD US THAT MITDANK STATED THAT THIS INCLUDES "TOURIST GROUPS" ARRANGED BY TRAVEL AGENCIES. THIS WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM EXPERIENCE OF COMMERCIAL BUS TOURS (REFTEL D).

5. WE CONCUR IN USBER'S ASSESSMENT OF MEANING OF GDR MOVE IN IMPOSING VISA REQUIREMENT. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, DOUBT THAT DESIRE FOR HARD CURRENCY OR UNHAPPINESS OVER LARGE NUMBER OF GASTARBEITERS WAS MORE THAN A SUBSIDIARY REASON FOR EAST GERMAN MOVE.POLANSKY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BERLIN ACCESS, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, VISA REGULATIONS, BORDER CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN05015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770003-0424
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770183/aaaacuqk.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fbd1e4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BERLIN 7336, 77 BONN 47, 77 USBERLIN 12
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3669998
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTROL POINTS ON GDR/EAST BERLIN BOUNDARY
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fbd1e4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009